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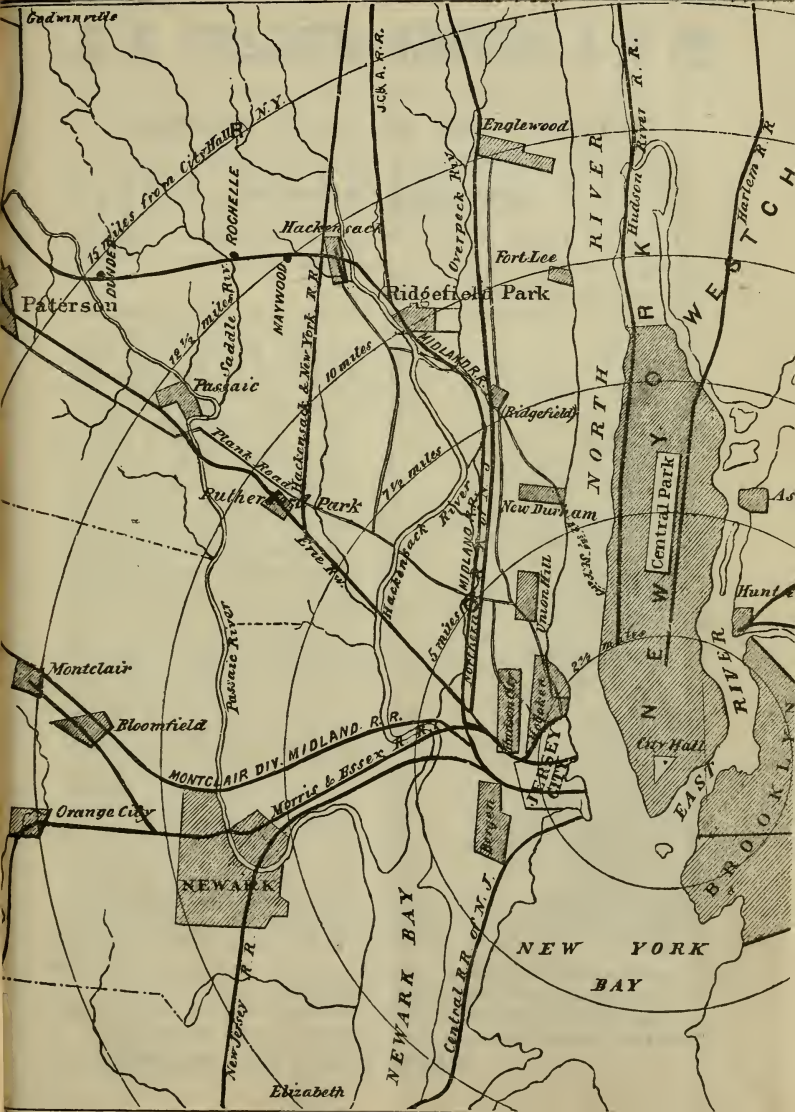


A
GLANCE
AT

**RIDGEFIELD
PARK, N. J.**


ITS PAST,
PRESENT and
FUTURE.

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 To the Lakes and the St. Lawrence.

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NEW JERSEY DIVISION.

Rates of Local, Excursion and Commutation Tickets, taking effect May 1st, 1873, between New York or Jersey City and the following Stations.

DISTANCE.	STATIONS.	LOCAL FARE.	EXCURSION.	ONE MONTH.	THREE MONTHS.	1st SIX MONTHS.	2d SIX MONTHS.	TWELVE MONTHS.
6	NEW DURHAM.....	20	35		\$22 00	\$40.00	\$25.00	\$60.00
	GRANTON.....	20	35		23.50	41.25	26.25	62.50
	LITTLE FERRY.....	30	45	\$11.00	24.50	42.50	27.50	63.00
11	RIDGEFIELD PARK.....	35	50	11.50	24.50	43.00	28.00	63.00
12	BOGOTA.....	40	55	12.00	24.50	43.00	28.00	63.00
13	HACKENSACK.....	40	65	12.50	25.00	43.50	28.50	63.00
15	MAYWOOD.....	45	65	12.50	25.00	43.50	28.50	63.50
16	ROCHELLE PARK.....	50	70	12.50	25.50	44.00	29.00	64.00
18	DUNDEE.....	55	70	12.75	26.00	44.25	29.25	64.25
20	PATERSON.....	55	75	13.00	26.50	45.00	30.00	65.00
21	RIVERSIDE.....	60	80	13.50	27.00	45.50	30.75	66.25
22	HAWTHORNE.....	65	85	13.75	27.50	46.00	31.25	67.50
23	VAN WINKLES.....	65	90	14.25	28.25	47.00	32.25	68.50
25	MIDLAND PARK.....	70	90	14.50	28.75	47.25	32.75	69.00
26	WORTENDYKE.....	75	95	14.75	29.25	47.75	33.25	71.00
27	WYCKOFF.....	85	\$1.00	15.25	30.00	48.50	34.75	72.25
29	CAMPGAW.....	90	1.10	16.00	31.25	49.75	36.00	76.00
30	CRYSTAL LAKE.....	95	1.15	16.75	32.50	51.00	37.25	78.50
31	OAKLAND.....	\$1.00	1.25	17.50	33.75	52.25	38.75	81.50
34	POMPTON.....	1.05	1.35	18.00	34.50	53.00	40.00	83.25
36	BLOOMINGDALE.....	1.15	1.45	19.00	36.50	56.00	44.00	90.75
37	WEST BLOOMINGDALE..	1.20	1.50	19.25	37.00	57.50	46.50	95.00
39	SMITHS MILLS.....	1.25	1.60	19.50	38.25	59.00	48.00	98.50
43	CHARLOTTEBURGH.....	1.35	1.75	20.00	39.50	61.50	51.00	104.00
45	NEW FOUNDLAND.....	1.45	1.85	20.50	40.50	63.50	53.50	109.25
46	OAK HILL.....	1.50	1.95	21.50	42.75	67.25	58.50	118.75
49	STOCKHOLM.....	1.50	2.05	22.00	43.75	69.00	60.75	123.00
56	OGDENSBURGH.....	1.60	2.30	23.25	46.25	72.75	66.50	131.25
59	FRANKLIN.....	1.65	2.40	23.50	46.75	74.00	67.25	133.00
62	HAMBURGH.....	1.70	2.50	25.00	50.00	80.00	75.00	150.00
66	DECKERTOWN.....	1.75	2.60	26.50	52.00	83.00	77.75	154.00
74	UNIONVILLE.....	1.95	2.70	27.00	52.75	84.50	78.75	157.00
88	MIDDLETOWN.....	2.05	2.75	27.50	53.75	86.00	80.00	160.00

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WM. H. WEED, Gen'l Ticket Agent.

A GLANCE
AT
RIDGEFIELD PARK,

N. J.,
Its Past, Present and Future.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE TRACT BOUNDED BY THE HACKENSACK
AND OVERPECK RIVERS; ITS POINTS OF HISTORICAL INTEREST;
ITS RECENT IMPROVEMENTS; ITS NATURAL ADVANTAGES,
AND ITS AVAILABILITY AS A

SITE FOR SUBURBAN VILLA RESIDENCES.

"Si peninsulam quæris circumspice."

BY GEORGE L. CATLIN.

(An edition of 2000 copies of this work is published for gratuitous circulation
in New York, and along the line of Midland Railroad, between Jersey
City and Paterson.)

NEW YORK. 4

1873.

Ridgefield Park Hotel,

(SEE PAGE 13,)

A. BROWNSON, Proprietor.

Will be open May 1st, 1874, for summer visitors

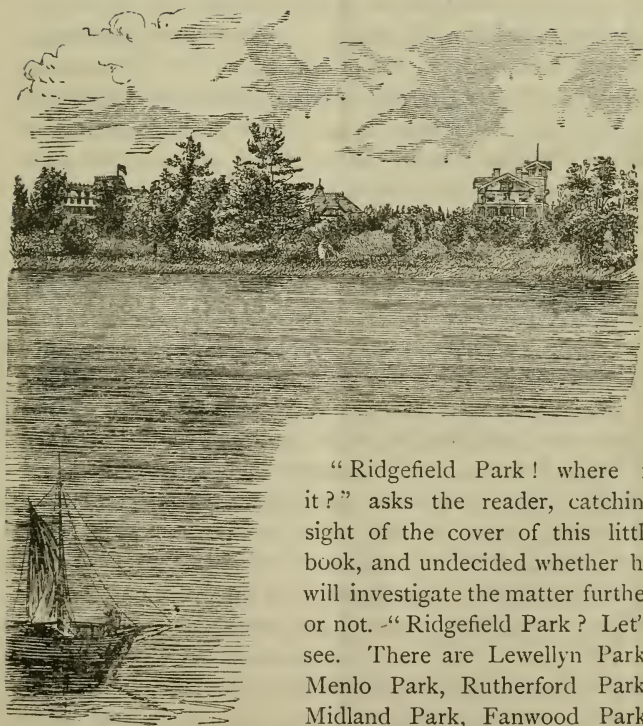
FOR THE

SEASON OF 1874.

The unparalleled success attending the past season at this newly opened summer resort, gives promise of one even more brilliant during the coming year.

(For complete description of the house and its conveniences see page 12.)

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“Ridgefield Park! where is it?” asks the reader, catching sight of the cover of this little book, and undecided whether he will investigate the matter further or not. “Ridgefield Park? Let’s see. There are Lewellyn Park, Menlo Park, Rutherford Park, Midland Park, Fanwood Park,

Central Park, yes, and Mungo Park, but,” (and it always comes around again to the query)

"RIDGEFIELD PARK. WHERE IS IT?"

Only ten miles from the City Hall, and you can safely invest a fifty on reaching there, say from Trinity Church, sooner than, by ordinary conveyance, Twenty Third Street. Try it some day. Inveigle your young friend Jones into a playful bet that he can take a stage at the corner of Wall and Broadway, and be up at Madison Square before you are out at Ridgefield Park, ten miles away. Jones will lose fifty dollars. For you have only to step down to the foot of Courtlandt Street, or, if you are further up town, Desbrosses Street, cross to Jersey City, take a seat in one of the spacious and elegant Midland Railway coaches, and in thirty minutes find yourself at the Ridgefield Park depot. These thirty minutes have been passed in a most enjoyable ride too. After passing Bergen Cut and West End, the Midland skirts the western slope of the Palisades to a point about on a line with Bull's Ferry, then shoots off north westward, crosses the Overpeck River, or English Creek, and brings you to your destination.

Now, if the reader will turn to the map he will be enabled thereon more definitely to follow the route above traced out, and will more clearly understand the topography of this locality. He will discover that Ridgefield Park comprises the wooded point or neck of upland known as Teaneck Ridge, formed by the confluence of the Hackensack and Overpeck Rivers; that *recherche* Englewood on one side, and venerable Hackensack on the other, are but little over a mile distant; that the recently completed portion of the Jersey City and Albany railroad here diverges from the Midland, and, running northward, traverses the western border of the ridge; that Ridgefield station on the Northern Railroad (running to Chambers and Twenty Third Streets), is

only a mile and a half away ; that the Midland depot is in the Park itself ; in short, that Ridgefield Park is the very center of a villa tract teeming with railroad facilities and possessing natural advantages and surroundings, which can unquestionably render it one of New York's most attractive suburbs.

So, the whereabouts of Ridgefield Park, and the means of reaching it having been duly impressed upon the reader's mind, let us rest here for a few moments under the grand old forest trees which discriminating taste has spared to beautify the slopes and lawns adjacent to the depot. The Hackensack flows almost at our feet, and across its silvery current we gain glimpses of a charming rural vista. Not always, remember, has this quiet spot been so oft awakened with the shrill whistle of the locomotive ; not always has the footstep of the New Yorker, going to and from his daily business, trodden its grassy paths ; not always has the sound of the axe and hammer, or the click of the instrument in yonder telegraph office been heard here in its sylvan shades. Yet, though only recently aroused to the march of progress, this locality has an interesting history of its own, coeval with the settlement of Manhattan by the Dutch traders, many of whose names and descendants are to be found among its residents of to-day. Here, too, in the campaign of Washington in Northern New Jersey, were laid the scenes of many interesting episodes, which, though of minor importance in the great history of the struggle, yet possess such local moment as to render them favorite subjects of recital to the inhabitants of the present time.

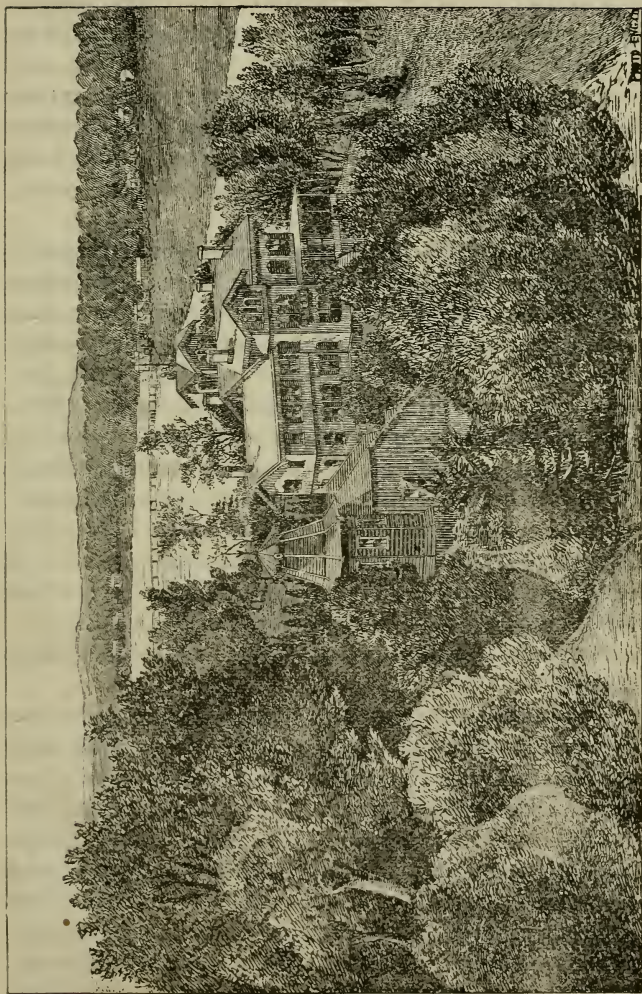
"In every direction," writes the Rev. Mr. Taylor, Pastor of the Reformed Church of English Neighborhood or Ridgefield, "the eye of the intelligent beholder may rest on localities sacred with memories of Revolutionary days. Here

the late centenarian, Derrick Paulison, was wont to tell us he saw the British drive off his father's cattle ; there the late aged Mrs. Banta saw carried a British sentry shot down by some stealthful patriot ; and there in the front of her late dwelling, yet standing, she saw Washington drill his troops. Almost within sight are several houses traditionally pointed out as having been either his headquarters or his resting place for a night or more, and in full view is the 'belt of rocky and wooded heights which borders the Hudson,' over which 'Light Horse Harry' led his daring companions in their night assault on Paulus Hook. The biographer of Washington remarks 'He achieved his object, a *coup de main* of signal audacity.' He made an hundred prisoners, among whom were three officers."

But, however interesting these traditions and memories, it is with the matters of to-day that the practical visitor to Ridgefield Park will undoubtedly prefer to engage himself. The first question which he will propound is—

"IS IT HEALTHFUL?" The gradual slope of the land for 125 feet towards the river on either side ensures a perfect drainage, and give a sure guarantee of healthfulness. But the best authority is the testimony given by those who have dwelt here for a lifetime, or a long period of years. And, apropos of this topic, the Rev. Mr. Taylor, previously quoted, contributes from his own experience the following interesting facts :

"It has been for many years looked upon even by disinterested individuals as decidedly the most desirable location or rural homes which New Jersey has yet offered to the crowded population of our great metropolis. I am confident that when its superior advantages are fully made known, that it will successfully compete with other rival points of interest. As we have looked upon it from our neighboring home, we



VIEW FROM RIDGEFIELD PARK HOTEL LOOKING SOUTH-EAST.

have almost involuntarily exclaimed in the classic motto of the Peninsular State of the North-west, 'If you wish to see a delightful Peninsula, look around you.' On the west, south and east it is bounded by streams never stagnant nor sluggish, navigable at all seasons of the year for such vessels as are needed for pleasure or freight, affording also to the weary business man ample recreation in bathing, boating, fishing and fowling.

"The site of Ridgefield Park and its adjoining country is exceedingly free from all low malarious spots. It rises from its several water fronts gradually and beautifully to a most desirable elevation, forming one of the most perfect water sheds imaginable. The soil is exceedingly fertile, having been for more than a century under the highest cultivation. It abounds with springs of water, cool, sweet and pure, while the salubrity of the atmosphere is well established. *We have been personally acquainted with many individuals, native born, whose years had reached the allotted three score and ten; not a few who had gone beyond it, and several who had almost reached the rare age of one hundred, and who could look upon the fifth generation of their descendants.*"

IS THE PROPERTY IMPROVED? inquires the prospective purchaser.

Certainly it is. Not after the manner of your professional speculator in real estate, who, acquiring possession of some out of the way tract of land, no matter where, puts a surveyor on the ground, ploughs up three or four so called avenues in one direction, and half a dozen streets at right angles to them, dignifies them on his map by such high sounding titles as Forest Avenue or Park Street, and then straightway announces a "Grand Auction Sale of valuable Suburban property." The people, the band and the auctioneer suddenly invade the solitudes some fine morning; but

alas, the visitors after looking in vain through swamp and thicket for the stately avenues and attractive villa sites which the maps had promised, take revenge by eating up all the refreshments, and then go away dissatisfied.

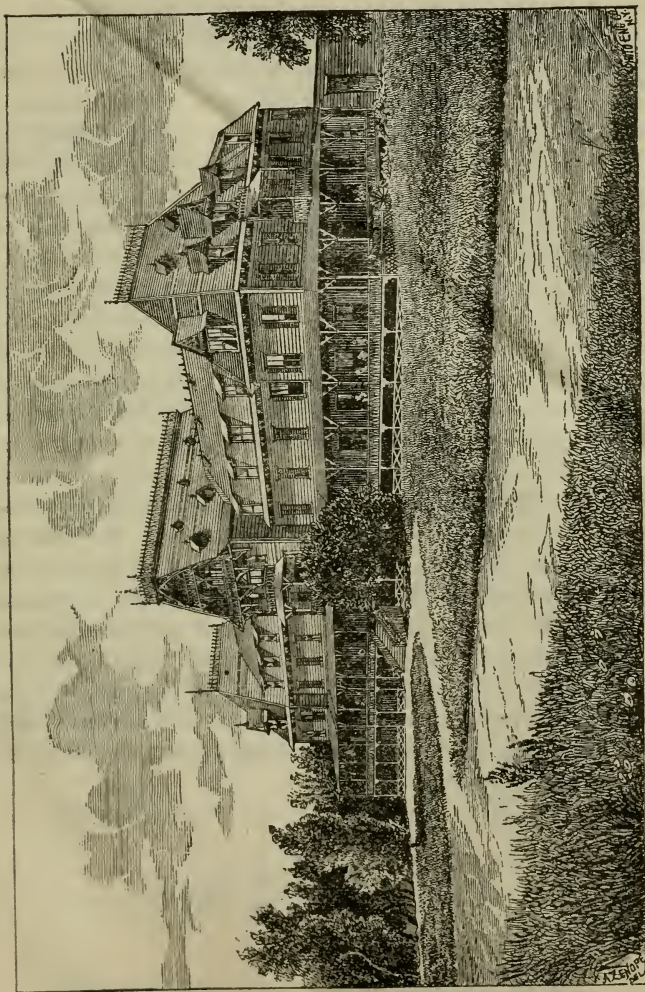
Ridgefield Park, it may be stated in the first place, needs no such humbug and deception to bring it into popularity or commend its advantages and attractions to the attention of the thoughtful and observant purchaser. The eye of even the most careless passer by is arrested by its natural beauties, and his lips involuntarily exclaim "What a pleasant place for a residence." And it is upon such intrinsic claims as these that the availability of Ridgefield Park as a place of suburban residence is based.

The property comprises some three hundred acres lying principally along the summit of the Ridge, and extending down on the one side to the Hackensack River, on the other to Overpeck Avenue, running parallel to the river by the same name. It seems to have been originally a portion of a grant made some time prior to 1669 to one Wm. Pardons, and it would be interesting here, did time and space permit, to trace its line of ownership down to the year 1870, when it came by purchase into the possession of its present proprietor. At that time its nearest point of connection for New York was Ridgefield Depot on the Northern Railroad about two miles distant. But two years later came the Midland, with its increased facilities, and its depot and telegraph office within ten minutes walk of any part of the property.

The Bergen macadam road, passing within a short distance of the Park, runs direct to Hoboken. On either slope of the ridge, long established thoroughfares, the Tea-neck Public Road on the west, and the old Hackensack Public Road on the east, intersect the Park, and afford communication in both directions with points beyond. Parallel or at right

angles to these, other streets and avenues have been laid out, among them one, called Central Avenue, an hundred feet wide, extending along the summit of the ridge, and commanding a superb view on both sides. Fronting upon the street leading to the depot, and on the beautiful slope overlooking the Hackensack, stands the Ridgefield Park Hotel, an elegant structure, supplied with every modern convenience, and accommodating an hundred and fifty guests. The grounds about it are attractively laid out with flowers and shrubbery, while the shady grove adjoining them affords a charming sylvan resort for a summer's afternoon. The view from the hotel, as indeed from any point on or near the summit of the ridge, embraces an astonishing variety and scope. Looking east one sees the Overpeck Valley, and at its further verge the western slope of the Palisades, dotted with villages and villa residences from Bergen to Nyack. To the southeast the eye follows the winding course of the Hackensack, and turning around to the west the observer descries Newark, the Orange Mountains, Rutherford Park and Paterson, with Garret Rock frowning like a grim sentinel above it. Clothed in the purple hues of a summer sunset this view equals in loveliness many of the soft landscape scenes of southern Italy.

Several handsome villa residences have been erected at the Park, and are occupied by New York business men. The entire property is imperatively restricted against nuisances. No land will be sold except to purchasers who contemplate the erection of first-class residences, it being the intention of the owner of the property to render Ridgefield Park a village of villas where people of refined and cultivated tastes may reside, enjoying an immunity from the many annoyances and nuisances incident to life in most suburban villages. The drinking water is plentiful and pure, the property



VIEW OF THE RIDGEFIELD PARK HOTEL.

abounding in springs, from one of which water is pumped up in pipes to a reservoir which supplies the Hotel. The adjacent waters of the Hackensack afford fine facilities for boating, fishing and bathing. Should you wish to communicate with your friends elsewhere there is a Post Office, or, for more urgent need a telegraph office at the depot. In short, you are surrounded with nearly all the conveniences of city life in addition to other advantages in the way of healthfulness and comfort, which city-folk never dream of.

With such advantages, and under such influences as these, the future of Ridgefield Park is not difficult to foretell. Indeed it requires no great stretch of the imagination to picture this beautiful wooded ridge, ere many years have passed, thickly dotted with elegant villas and inhabited by a community exclusively composed of the wealthy and cultivated. In the great suburban New Jersey city, which ere long is destined to enfold in one mammoth corporation all the populous region, extending from the Hudson River to the Orange Mountains, and from Paterson to Elizabeth, may it not be justly expected that this beautiful ridge, adorned by nature with all the charms which could render it attractive as the home of man, and enriched and beautified by all the improvements that modern civilization can suggest, will be known and recognized as the garden spot of New Jersey, and as offering above all others claims for CONVENIENCE, HEALTHFULNESS AND BEAUTY.

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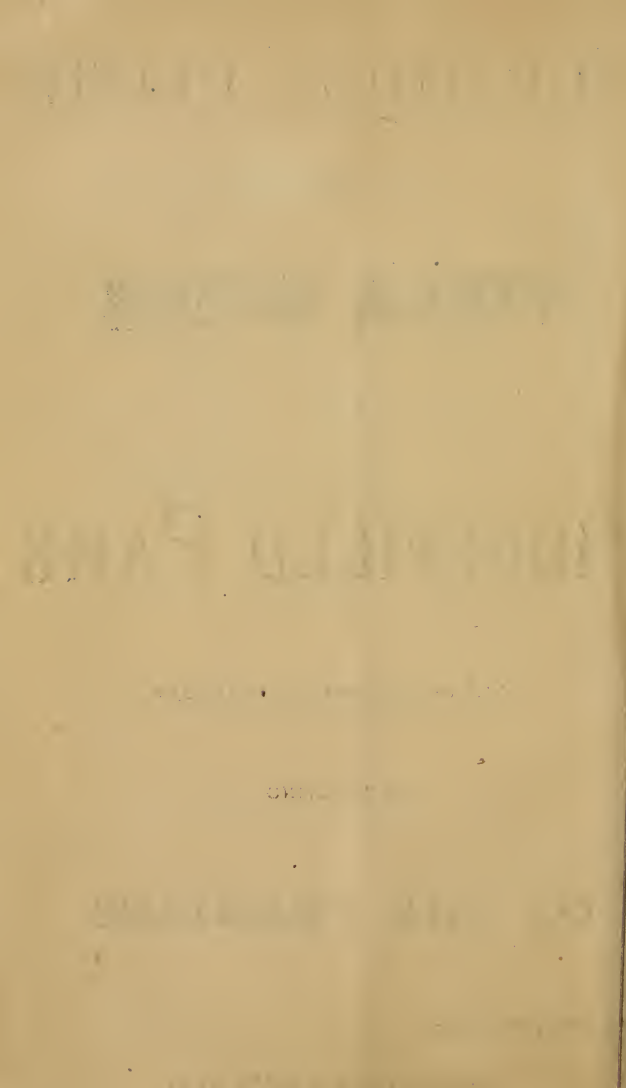
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